Our beloved Tahoma

On August 6, 2002, Wolf Haven lost one of our oldest and closest friends, with the passing of Tahoma.

Tahoma had been a major part of our sanctuary for the past eighteen years, serving as an ambassador for her brothers and sisters in the wild, as well as being the loving mate of Omie. After a very long life in which she outlived all of her siblings, her age finally caught up with her, and we saw that she simply could go on no longer.

Born in the Spring of 1984, Tahoma was a remarkable animal from day one. She was born to Princess Libpaw and Benoist, and shared the begining of her life with five other puppies from the same litter. Starting life with a snowy-gray and coat, and slate blue eyes, within a record her eyes and coat had changed to the mixture of brown and gold that were to stay with her for the rest of her life.

Shortly after birth, it was difficult to distinguish Tahoma from her brothers and sisters, until we began bottle-feeding the pups. It was at that time that her dominating character was first noticed. It’s not that she showed her littermates away from the bottles it’s just that if she got a hold of a finger (thinking that it was the bottle) you had a problem! Tahoma was a ball of fur attached to your finger.

that you were not going to shake off!

Later in her life, Tahoma always maintained her independence by viewing humans as either large playthings which were intended to be jumped on, knocked over and dragged — all by play, but it hurt nonetheless! On walks around the sanctuary as a young adult she was fairly controllable until she saw fresh buttercups. While buttercups may be flowers to us, they were big game for, to be stalked and chased, all with a helpless human in tow.

As an adult, Tahoma always maintained her independence, but she also showed an incredible willingness to cooperate and compromise with — and for — her mate. Omie was very lucky to have shared his life with Tahoma, as she was very tolerant of him, and sensitive to his needs and personality. They were a grand pair, and he appears to miss her dearly.

Tahoma was fortunately in very good health until only a few days before her death. She was not moving well or eating on Saturday morning, but we were able to medicate her and she responded well. Three days later, we found her lying under the branches of an oak tree, unresponsive and unable to stand. We summoned our Veterinarian, but before he arrived, Tahoma had passed away. In her own special way, independent to the very end.

Tahoma now lies in the cemetery we’ve created for our wolves, resting beneath an oak tree. It is our wish that she is now with her family again, roaming fields full of plump deer and meadows of buttercups.

Jack Lauer, Curator

Good-bye, Smokey

Julie Palmquist, Communications Director / Staff Photographer

Having a great deal of respect for the wolves at Wolf Haven and all wild animals, I must rely upon subtle body language to determine when and how an animal is comfortable being photographed.

Smokey’s body language and vocal communications were anything but subtle. Time and time again, Animal Care Staff would assure me, “It’s only smoke... You’ve got to win his confidence by not being intimidated...”

Naturally growing at his ease, I was eventually able to reduce himself to a gazing state over their attention or a celery cookie, Smokey
Wolf Haven Volunteers and Staff assisted a memorial ceremony for Smokey at his pen side, led by Kari Taylor, Wolf Haven Office Manager. Photo by Jale Palaszczuk.

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w ariness of humans and unpredictable behavior... Some have speculated that, with a keen intelligence attributed to his kind, Smokey's early experience of abandonment on behalf of humans led to an inherent mistrust of them. Following Hurricane's death in 1997, it became evident that Smokey preferred to remain without subsequent canid companionship.

Whatever the inspiration for his behavior, Smokey was loved dearly for what he was and I treasures my moments with him. After a brief yet severe decline in health, Smokey was euthanized by Wolf Haven's Veterinarian on Thursday, July 18, at 2:30 in the afternoon. Upon his death, and at his memorial service, a feeling of closure seemed to prevail for those who knew him, and an appreciation for what we were able to provide him with: Green grass beneath his paws, shady trees to lie beneath, a few trusted human services for his keep—Haven among his kind and peace.

Wolf Haven's Pack of Wolves (alpha pair, adult, female, male, pup) is a group of wolves including: Arizona: Has been using areas in the San Carlos Reservation and Bear Willow Creek area of the Apache National Forest. The pack is also suspected of depredation in the Malheur area.

Pipistrel pack: The pack's 7 pups were recently harvested on genetic tests indicating that the father of the pups was likely a dog or wolf-dog hybrid. The male wolf traveling with the pack and the mother were captured along with the pups in May in New Mexico's Gila National Forest following a depredation incident. Because one of the pups did not look like a Mexican gray wolf pup, the pack was held in captivity at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge while genetic tests were being run. The FWS released the results of the test in September and, according to a rule in the policy governing the Federal reintroduction program, the pups were euthanized. The adult male wolf and the mother of the pups are still at the refuge.

Other free-ranging packs: The Gapiwi pack (alpha pair) - New Mexico; the Luna pack (alpha pair) - New Mexico; Hawk's Nest pack (alpha pair) - Arizona; Saddle Pack (alpha pair, adult, female). Continued from page 4

• **Support**: proposal 4: December through March season limit. The proposal reduces the number of wolves needlessly killed and would reduce the number of orphaned pups.

• **Support**: part of proposals 5 and 6, seasons and bag limits. **Agree**: on a limit of 10 wolves per year as a maximum that one individual can take. **Disagree**: with the October 15 or March season.

• **Support**: proposals 40, 41, and 42. Animals should not be required to reset in traps for days. Traps should be marked with identification to reduce illegal trapping and to make trap identification easier for law enforcement officials in identifying violators.

• **Support**: proposals 53, 54, and 55. Wolves existing in Denali National Park need protection, potential loss of those wolves would not only have a negative impact on the Park's ecosystem, but would also decrease desperately needed tourist dollars.

**Do you hear what I hear?**

What's the jingle about a holiday celebration at Wolf Haven? Tune into www.wolfhaven.org or call 360-264-1493 after November 1 to find out!